



Joan McDonald
Commissioner



State of Connecticut
Department of Economic and
Community Development

TESTIMONY SUBMITTED TO THE COMMERCE COMMITTEE
February 28, 2008

Joan McDonald, Commissioner
Department of Economic and Community Development

HB 5586 AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN ACCOUNT FOR BROWNFIELDS REMEDIATION AND REDEVELOPMENT

HB 5589 AN ACT CONCERNING BROWNFIELDS

The Department of Economic and Community Development (DECD) offers the following information with regard to House Bill 5586 and House Bill 5589.

Since Governor Rell signed Public Act 07-233 in July 2007, DECD has been actively establishing the Office of Brownfields Remediation and Development (OBRD) as well as working with our partner agencies to streamline and coordinate the brownfield programs of Connecticut. Some of the more recent noteworthy accomplishments include:

- Execution of a *Memorandum of Understanding* between DECD, CDA, DEP and DPH.
- In January, Governor Rell announced a national search for the Director of the Office of Brownfield Remediation and Development in order to bring in an expert with the right blend of management, environmental and business experience who will help Connecticut become a model for the rest of the nation in brownfield redevelopment.
- OBRD has responded to over 100 requests for assistance, many technical inquiries.

With regard to HB 5589, DECD would like to note it believes that PA 07-233 adequately contains sufficient authority for the department to accomplish these same activities outlined in HB 5589, with the exception of the tax credit program. Presently, the Connecticut Development Authority (CDA) does have a Tax Incremental Finance (TIF) program, currently in the statutes that could be utilized for brownfields projects.

As you are also aware, last years bond act included funding for the two new programs established under PA 07-233. These programs were:

- 1) The Brownfield Pilot Program:
\$4.5M for FY 08 and \$4.5M for FY 09 and;
- 2) The Brownfield Remediation and Development Program:
\$2.5M for FY 08 and \$2.5M for FY 09

DECD is in the process of finalizing criteria for these programs will have a streamlined application and funding process in place and will be coordinating a statewide marketing campaign.

In closing, DECD is aware that these two bills before the committee today are placeholders. As you are aware Brownfields is a key part to Governor Rell's Responsible Growth agenda and we look forward to working with policy makers on this agenda.
